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**Others Offer Support in Supreme Court Battle**

**Istook Defends Anti-Porn Law**

*Washington, DC --* To safeguard children from online pornography at public libraries, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) today filed a “friend of the court” brief, urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of the Children’s Internet Protection Act. The brief was filed on behalf of Istook and nine other Congressmen by the American Center for Law and Justice, a public interest law firm specializing in constitutional law.

**“It’s common sense that we shouldn’t use taxpayers’ money to subsidize children’s access to Internet pornography,”** said Istook, the principal author of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires that public libraries install filters to block obscenity on computers paid for with federal funds to which children have access.

Istook, formerly the chairman of the OKC Metropolitan Library System Board, expressed concern that parents would keep their kids away from libraries if the ACLU prevailed: **“Parents want to send their kids to the library without fear of what is there. Many parents will limit their children’s use of the public libraries if they’re told that sexually-explicit websites will be freely accessible to kids. Common-sense tells us that few parents could stay with their kids constantly at the library, looking over their shoulders the entire time. Plenty of librarians know that children’s Internet access should be filtered. It’s sad that the ACLU and the liberal leadership of the ALA are more concerned with helping the pornographers than with helping our children.”**

CIPA became law in December 2000, when Istook successfully attached it as a rider on an appropriations bill. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the American Library Association (ALA) filed suit against the law in March 2001 claiming that it would censor constitutionally-protected speech. In May 2002, a three-judge Philadelphia appellate court struck down the law. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case in March and will be asked to overturn that decision.

**“Time and again the Supreme Court has agreed that we can put common sense restrictions on how we spent taxpayer’s money, especially in situations like this. This law doesn’t censor anything, but it does refuse to subsidize pornography that’s aimed at kids,”** said Istook.

The brief can be read in its entirety at [www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org).